

School Board of Brevard County

1254 S. Florida Avenue • Rockledge, FL 32955
Desmond K. Blackburn, Ph.D., Superintendent



April 04, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Leadership Team

FROM: Jim Powers, Environmental Health & Safety Manager

RE: Safety Concern, Use of Aerial Working Platforms (Lifts) on BPS Property

Individual school sites may continue to use Aerial Working Platforms (AWP) to perform various duties where this specialized machinery (also commonly referred to as: personnel lift) is necessary for specific desired school operations as such:

- place, relocate, and/or remove school banners
- adjust auditoriums and/or stage rigging/lighting equipment
- monitor athletic & other programs (i.e. elevated instruction &/or practice/event filming)

Please know that these machines, if not maintained in good condition and not operated by skilled/trained personnel, can cause serious injury or death to the operator and/or those near the lift-operations on your campus/site. **Because our/SBBC Organization is structured from a site-based management format, individual school principals are ultimately responsible to the day-to-day safety of site-based operations performed by not only the students but also part-time/full-time school staff and volunteers.** Therefore, please take actions necessary to insure if/when/where AWP's are used on your campus for school operations, that general industry safety practices are used to help reduce the potential for an incident resulting in Loss.

The SBBC Office of Environmental Health and Safety shall continue to work with individual school/sites who either own or occasionally rent AWP's as a means to help insure general industry safety practices are used, as prescribed in the *BPS Environmental Health & Safety Plan (Section 9: Elevated Work)* and prevent loss of limb/life.

http://www.edline.net/files/DHBU3/ba7f3815f8d5d2bd3745a49013852ec4/Safety_Plan_-_Total.pdf

Vulnerability

Extra precautions are needed since this equipment is only used occasionally and typically by school staff who are hired to perform functions other than routinely working with AWP's. The openness of our/SBBC campuses (property) to individual school communities (heavily laden w/volunteers) creates a condition that requires additional efforts to insure AWP's are properly stored/secured from unauthorized use, are used only by those SBBC employees who have documented competency-use training, and equipment kept in good/safe working condition.

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Jim Powers, Environmental Health & Safety Manager

Plant Operation Department 9560: Office of Environmental Health & Safety / Facilities Services Division
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Background Information

In the past, the BPS Plant Operations & Maintenance Department occasionally lent AWP's (scissor lifts, scaffolding, etc.) to individual schools/sites upon request. The Maintenance Department stopped lending the few lift-machines and equipment they own/operate due to the near continuous/daily use of the lift-machines by their (Maintenance) tradespersons.

School Administrators and their designees should continue to submit maintenance repair type work orders through the Maintenance Department's work control database system (*Team-Works™*) whenever they observe building/campus repair needs requiring specialized personnel lift equipment, such as:

- building; fascia, soffits, windows, shutters, gutters, roofs (including pressure washing & painting)
- lighting fixtures (i.e. pole-mounted or otherwise suspended above 12' from ground level)
- speakers for public announcement systems
- school building signage, scoreboards, etc.
- pest control response (i.e. insect/ vermin removal and treatment)

Please do not hesitate to contact Jim Powers with any questions pertaining to safety and elevated work.

Sincerely,

Approved: 
Dane Theodore, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities Services

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